

FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM CBS Morning News

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CITY Washington, D.C.

SOCC 012 The Secret Team
CIA 4 Chile
CIA 1.04 McCord, James
Fensterwald, Bernard
CIA 1.04 Downey, John
CIA 4 China
STATION WTOP TV
CBS Network
Ellsberg, Daniel
CIA 1.04 Lansdale, EdwardAN INTERVIEW WITH COLONEL FLETCHER PROUTYP-GRHAM, Fred
(originally under HART)

JOHN HART: Before he retired, Air Force Colonel Fletcher Prouty spent a lot of his military career as what is called the "Focal Point Officer" between the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency.

He's written a book which is highly critical of what he calls "The Secret Team" which, by the way, is the title of the book. Since there are frequent references in the book to information in the Pentagon Papers, CBS News correspondent Fred Graham, who's been covering the Daniel Ellsberg trial, has joined me for the interview.

Colonel Prouty, I'd like to ask you first what is the secret team?

COLONEL FLETCHER PROUTY: Well, you know, there are quite a few people who write about the CIA. Mr. Dulles has written about the CIA. Lyman Kirkpatrick has written about the CIA.

The secret team really is the CIA and other parts of the government. The secret team includes the -- for instance, the participation of the Defense Department, of the White House -- of offices such as today we have under Dr. Kissinger. I think it's important to point out that in the operational aspects of CIA work the participation of a major part of the government, not just the CIA, is an important consideration.

HART: Well, the secret team's part in such things as the assassination of [name unintelligible] Jim, that sort of thing, the ITT and the CIA involvement -- alleged involvement -- in the elections of Chile are pretty well documented. Can you tell us anything about what you think may be going on right now?

COLONEL PROUTY: You mean current operations?

HART: That's right. Yes.

COLONEL PROUTY: Well act -- actually most of the things that I knew in current operations ended with my retirement about 10 years ago.